

The Prince

100th REUNION ISSUE

MAY 1, 1991

...I conclude, therefore, with regard to being feared and loved, that men love at their own free will, but fear at the will of the prince, and that a wise prince must rely on what is in his power and not on what is in the power of others, and he must only contrive to avoid incurring hatred...

...once I graduate I would like to turn The Prince into a full-blown zine with letters, articles, editorials, the whole bit. (#1)

I'm fairly sure the size of the zine will remain at this huge size of six pages. (#5)

...The Prince is dying a slow death...I will finish out these last games and then call it quits. (#37)

Once this last game ends I will be (ceasing) publication of The Prince. (#47)

...The Prince is back...with some changes...I am hoping for the best in this rebirth of The Prince. We all have Kevin Tighe to thank for this; let's hope it's not a breechbirth. (#49)

...It does not look too good for a gala 100th issue coming on the 100th issue...(#98)

Inside this issue:

Game reports
The Ultimate Recollection
The Prince: Interview
Subzines
Origins of THE PRINCE

Answers to the questionnaire
Tales of the Dipimaster
Missing in Action
Player Ratings
...and much, much more!

The Prince is a monthly publication devoted to the play of postal diplomacy published by Jim Meinel. Address is 2801 Pelican Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99515-1364. Home phone is (907) 243-8337. Subscriptions for this zine are \$5.00 for 10 issues. I have game openings for regular games of Dip - see details elsewhere on this page.

Well, here we are! Eight years, seven months and one hundred issues later The Prince is still at it. The zine has evolved from very small at the start, peaking in size and games in issues 15-30, and then back to small. I had a tremendous response to the survey mailed out; 28 of you responded. Everyone's narrative comments have been printed in this issue, but I did leave out some questions which seem uninteresting in retrospect (number of children, been in the military, and marital status). For issue #101, I have reserved some time to run your comments on this issue, if you have any. Hope you have fun with #100!

I have some credit to share here for this effort. My wife, Jenae, helped out a lot with both the concept and the logistical demands of this issue. Also, I want to thank everyone who responded to the survey, and also to those who provided me with updated addresses of former subbers. And finally, I want to thank everyone who played, subbed or received The Prince over the years. It was all those people who have made my publishing such a pleasure for me. This zine is one of my funner pursuits. Thank you everyone for the comments, cards and friendships I've made.

Speaking of friends, it seems two of you were here last summer AND DIDN'T LOOK ME UP! (Glenn Sherrill and Keith Sherwood) Admittedly, one of you was honeymooning, and the other was a subber from way back, but jeez, Alaska is practically the moon for you guys, at least try to call! We'd LOVE to show anyone around that comes up. First class accomos in our house, two good tour guides in me and Jenae, car, grub - we can even get your Mt. McKinley camping reservations ahead of time for you! So keep us in mind if you ever are planning on coming up here. Ask Keith & Glenn, you won't be sorry seeing The Great Land.

One thing about putting together this issue - it reminds me why I don't produce a big zine. Large, or even medium-sized zines, are a lot of work! Make sure you drop a line to any of your publishers of large zines, they deserve a pat on the back.

NEW GAME STATUS

=====

I have the following people signed up for our next game:

Jonh Fisher, Rob Winslow, Nelson Heintzman, Al Incorvaia, Ken Hager, Tom Nash

One more and it's a go! Non-black press, non-DIAS, four weeks (usually) and \$5. I will leave my openings open for a fourth game. Just send bucks and a preference list to guarantee a spot.

STANDBY LIST

=====

Hager, Reiff, Milewski, Heintzman, Caruso, Hoffman, Fisher

Let me know if you want on or off.

Drake 1990IA

Winter 1903

Austria removes F Albania
France builds A Marsailles

Spring 1904

NO AIRBORNE IN THIS WAR, GUYS!

Austria

A UKR S RUSSIA A Mos-Sev(nso), A GRE-Ser, A BUD S A Vie-Gal, A Vie-Gal,
Keith Schneider A Tri-VEN

England

F Nwy-SWE, F STP(nc) H, A Lon-NWY, A HOL smiles at our German brothers
Tom Nash (H), F SKA S F Nwy-Swe, F NTH C A Lon-Nwy

France

A BEL H, F Tyn-NAP, A Ven-ROM, F MID-Wes, F WES-Ion(imp), A Mar-PIE

Jim Nickel

Germany

A Sil-MUN, A TYO S AUSTRIAN A Tri-Ven, A Kie-RUH, F Den-BAL

Paul Milewski

Italy

F Ion-APU, F Tun-NAF, A BOH-Bud(imp), A WAR H

Bruce Reiff

Russia

A MOS wallows in muddled confusion & surprised
N. Heintzman bewildermentthat life is still sustained (H)

Turkey

A Sev-BUL, A RUM-Ser, F BLA C A Sev-Bul, F Bul(sc)-AEG, F EAS S F Aeg-
Buz Eddy Ion, F Aeg-ION

? Next deadline will be Saturday June 1, 1991.

Press:

Ita-Aus: You're about to be eliminated from any draw possibility, and I'm going to enjoy watching it.

Paul-Tom: It would be more accurate to state that I have written to you in this game but that I have not written to you as often as you wished I had.

Con: Admiral Eggonfacesky, who has been steaming in circles around the Black Sea for two years, made a port of call in the north (Georgia ((San Simonski Island))). He was instructed to research the name Jack McHugh. His report: "McHugh, Jack a.k.a. Flap Jack - A true peach of a fellow, a genuine pussycat. Can be trusted absolutely. If he has 17 centers and units beside all your home supply centers (which are vacant), and if he says he won't take them - then HE WON'T!!" Admiral Eggonfacesky has been at sea a long time.

Turkey to the Pope of Warsaw: Does His Holiness really feel so pessimistic that he feels that well-organized competent opposition like us (F Sev S Liv-Mos) & (A Boh S Gal-War) can't stop England, France or both anytime we want??

Otto 1989 KI

Fall 1908

ITALIANS HIT THE BEACHES IN ENGLAND

AUSTRIA

Kathy Caruso

F NRG S TURKISH F Bar-Nwy, A TYO S A Mun, A MUN S A Sil, A SIL S A Mun, A VIE S A Tyo, A TUS H, A RUH H, A BEL H, A HOL H

GERMANY

Rob Winslow

F WAL H

ITALY

Nelson Heintzman

A Rom-LVP, A EDI S A Rom-Lvp, F TYN C A Rom-Lvp, F WES C A Rom-Lvp, F MID C A Rom-Lvp, F NAT C A Rom-Lvp, A BRE H, A PAR H, A VEN H

RUSSIA

Bruce Reiff

A NWY thumbs his nose at Turkey (H), A FIN S A Nwy, F SWE S A Nwy

TURKEY

Jim Nickel

A Kie-DEN, A LVN S A StP, A STP S F Bar-Nwy, F BAR-Nwy, A BER H, A WAR H, A CON H, A SMY H, F ION H, F AEG H, F EAS H

Winter 1908 Supply Center Chart

Austria	Home, Ser, Gre, Mun, Por, Bel, Hol	9		
Germany	Lon	1		
Italy	Home, Mar, Spa, Tun, Lvp, Par, Bre, EDI	10	+1	build 1
Russia	Swe, Nwy, <u>Edi</u> , <u>Den</u>	2	-2	remove 1
Turkey	Home, Rum, Bul, Sev, Mos, War, Ber, Kie, StP, DEN	12	+1	build 1

* The T/I/A/R/G draw proposal failed. It has been repropoed. Please vote, NVR equals "no."

* The next deadline will be Saturday June 1, 1991.

Press:

Aus-I/T: I can only hope no news is good news!

OPENING THOUGHTS OPENING THOUGHTS

"If you can remember, can you provide any comments/adjectives/epithets about the zine, the GM, the games or the players?"

Paul Milewski - Again, as is so typical, I have followed the publisher's exploits from college to career, from divorce to remarriage, and have come to think of him as a three-dimensional person, not a cardboard cutout, even though we have never met and have only exchanged a few words over the phone. My strongest memory is of my oldest son's one experience with Dip as a hobby, which was in The Prince. He was Austria. Kathy Caruso was Italy. ((GM: that would be Medici)) He was doomed. I am still not sure that did not have something to do with his totaling my Volvo.

Mark Frueh - I remember some very exciting Diplomacy games.

Jack Fleming - Great zine, great GM, fun games, but most of the players were liars...

Gary Coughlan - The only Alaska zine...always the feeling of coldness...the last frontier...the ends of the Earth.

Bruce Reiff - Kathy Caruso and I actually considered working together in a game here! Amazing, but true.

George Rifle - B+ zine.

Greg Ellis - Best turnaround time in the hobby. First saw the Iberian Indecision (Mike Whitty as France).

Which I later wrote up for DipWorld and VoD. Also later went to law school with Whitty!

Terry Tallman - How nice! Another Seattle szine! (NSWG, CR, Fleming's thing)

James Wall - Best part of the zine became the hilarious subzines - but without the timeliness of The Prince the subzines come to nothing.

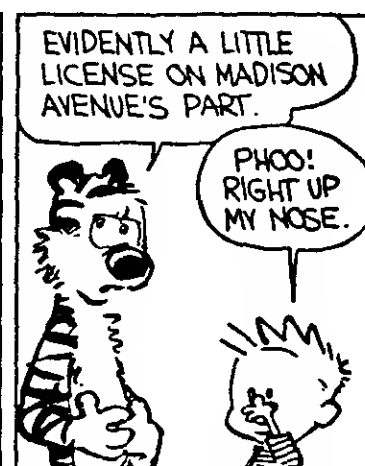
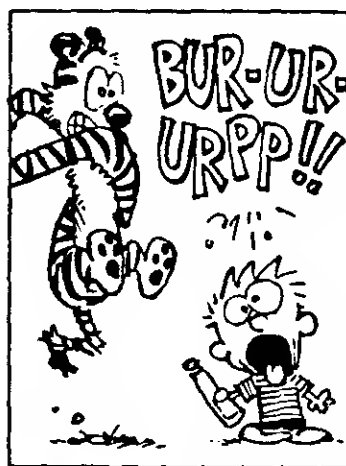
Derwood Bowen - David Hood loused up my one game. Oh, well. I allowed it to happen.

Larry Peery - A sharp-look zine, a sharp GM, and rather dull content as I remember.

Ken Peel - I got The Prince in a trade for The Zine Register. Never got to know it well, as I never played there. But it seemed like a comfortable, friendly place to hang out.

Fred Davis - I received The Prince in 1983-1984. My last issue was #27, although someone else printed a hoax issue called 27A when your zine became overdue. I was trading you my Variant zine, Bushwacker, for the Prince. I never played in any of your games. I can recall stating in BUSH, around the time of the 1984 Runestone Poll, that The Prince was one of the most literate and best printed zines in the hobby.

MORE! →



Al Incorvaia - It has been about four years but The Prince was one of my favorites. I had to drop out when I couldn't stay responsible with the time deadlines. I had too many other things going. Anybody seen or heard from Nelson Heintzman?? I got him involved in Dip and he stabbed me real good just before I dropped out in my last game!! Nice friend, huh!

Rob Winslow - Although the zine, GM, games and players have always been subpar (ha! ha!), I've enjoyed The Prince immensely. A nice side effect of the zine (not to mention knowing the GM) was to get into SNARFL.

Keith Sherwood - I remember meeting Jim when he and I both attended a

house-con at Larry Peery's house in about '83. ((JM: Dec '83)) I remember particularly the trip to the airport with Larry and Jim to Jim's plane. Larry was spinning his usual fantastic tales when Larry pointed to a building on the edge of the runway and launched into a speech about how planes routinely brushed their landing gear on its roof, leaving skid marks and bits of rubber on the roof. Jim and I

locked eyes. Both of us were too polite to call our host to the carpet on this tall tale, but we both knew. It had been quite a weekend.

Kathy Caruso - I get The Prince to play as you're the best GM around. If you give a deadline, I know you'll meet it. Month after month I see GM's get later and later, eventually making me an orphan. You are the most reliable and accurate GM I have. When I sign up in The Prince - I know the game will finish in The Prince and that I won't have months of delays!

Ken Hager - The Prince was one of the first zines I ever subbed to but I just can't recall many of the specifics.

Dick Martin - I have a lot of good memories of The Prince. It's been a good, reliable little zeen for a long time now - the sort of zeen I'd like to put out myself. A fun read.

POSTAL DIP? WHAT'S THAT????

I learned about the hobby from:

Friend - 9

The General - 6

The Box - 5

Gamer's Guide to Diplomacy - 1

Via Compuserve - 1

Diplomacy World - 1

Game Designers Workshop - 1

No conclusions to draw from this, but the People In High Places may want to look at to see where to advertise the hobby.



I'LL NEVER FORGET THE TIME...

Karl Hoffman - Playing a game with Kathy Caruso. (Otto) She trampled me.

Al Incorvaia - I was playing Italy ((Maximilian 1983 AN)) and teamed up with Russia; we were cleaning up pretty good! Well as it turned out Russia got greedy but...France had fallen out and an old buddy of mine, Nelson Heintzman subbed in and I thought, oh this is great he owes me one!! Wrong....his non-support caused me to fold up my tent until this day...I'll get even Nelson...Where are you?! Brutus!

Ken Hager - I played in a game in which an R/T alliance swept across the board without opposition and I vividly recall, as Germany, the shock of seeing Turkish fleets in the English Channel. ((Tokugawa 1984 AD, Derwood Bowen & Stephen Wilcox were the aggressors))

Kathy Caruso - The best was the ending of a long time animosity which existed between Nelson and myself. You, "Otto" and Jim Nickel are responsible for turning animosity into friendship.

Paul Milewski - My best experience has been getting to know Nelson Heintzman better.

Keith Sherwood - First and only time I've been eliminated from a Dip game. I was playing Turkey, remind me who did it to me. ((Churchill, you were Italy, & Glenn Sherrill, your fellow Alaska traveler, won the game)) That might have been my last start previous to leaving the hobby for 5 years. Just think - The Prince drove me from the hobby!

Evans Givan - Being cut from the sub list. Even though I paid cash!

Rob Winslow - I had the most fun putting together galimatias. I got a lot of reaction to it! About 1/3 loved it, 1/3 hated it and 1/3 didn't give a damn! One person sent me some real nasty hate mail, and I'm still annoyed I never found out who it was!

Larry Peery - Watching its publisher consume a fifth of gin at one sitting with no apparent ill effects; and crediting the Alaskan cold for his high tolerance to it.

Fred Davis - Apparently, The Great Fued broke up our trade. I'll be looking forward to seeing your issue #100. In exchange, I'll send you a copy of the last issue of BUSH (August 1990). Just remind me when you send yours.

Gary Coughlan - Probably talking to you on the telephone. Your wife ((GM: now ex-wife)) was gone and the secretary at work noticed your shirts weren't ironed. I most enjoyed personal contacts like meetings or phone calls (yours was a phone call) while in the hobby.

James Wall - Hmm - nothing really comes to mind - seems like I had a fairly weird game as Turkey - Evans Givan may have even been in it! - but like PG says - I don't remember.

George Rifle - I NMR'd out, sorry!

Nelson Heintzman - My most memorable experience with The Prince concerns the dynamics of the first game I played in the zine. My ever-changing relationships with Mark Luedi and Bob Gosselin introduced me to the mind-boggling shifting and reshaping of alliances which occurs in some games.

Bruce Reiff - Definitely the most memorable thing was when I received an overnight letter from you correcting a mistake where I was only called as a standby. That's dedication.

How 'bout we check the next page to see what Dick Martin and Greg Ellis' strongest memories are.....

Greg Ellis - Losing the Charles game to Dick, who took over Austria with 3 centers.

Dick Martin - I played what's probably my best standby position in The Prince - the one where I pulled out a win after picking up a two-center Austria. Which game was that? ((Charles)) Poor Greg Ellis was pretty frustrated in that one. I remember that the other players were particularly good (Eric Diamond? Was he in that game?). Boy, I could play back then.

NOWAGREATPLACETOTAKEYOURWINTERVACATIONALASKAWHYNOTWEAREALOTWARMERTHANYOUBY20DEGREE
Charles 1983 W

The Prince	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	
Austria	5	4	3	4	6	7	9	11	11	14	18	wins
England	4	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
France	3	5	6	6	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Germany	5	6	8	9	11	11	10	11	10	9	8	survived
Italy	4	6	5	6	7	9	9	8	9	10	8	survived
Russia	6	6	7	6	5	5	6	4	4	1	-	
Turkey	4	3	3	3	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	

Austria - John Beck(res F02), Dick Martin(win F11)
England - Richard Delzer(out F04)
France - Pat Conlon(out F06)
Germany - Gre Ellis(sur F11)
Italy - Eric Diamond(sur F11)
Russia - Brian Orloff(dro S07), Matthew Fleming(out F11)
Turkey - Keith Sesler(out F07)

ITALY (Eric Diamond, survivor): I don't really have much time for this, which is one of the reasons I lost this game: not enough time. I'd like to congratulate Dick on the win. He stabbed me, but I had it coming. I'd like to apologize to Greg for NMR'ing in W10/S11. Greg, I was strongly considering stabbing Dick then, and we could have given him a good fight if I had. Again I apologize for missing the season; I do take my games seriously and I know you (Greg) do too. School got the better of me, I had no idea I had missed the deadline. I did enjoy playing with you.

GM (Jim Meinel): Charles was the third game which I ran in The Prince and the first 'regular' game of dip I offered (as opposed to the two previous prophetic play games). In fact, a few of the participants signed up for the game thinking it would be prophetic but when it took a long time to fill the game I switched it to regular and it filled right up after that. A major reason I feel that people would rather play the standard way is that is just the way the entire hobby is and it is too easy to forget that you are in a prophetic game and thus make a bad set of orders.

When John Beck resigned and Dick Martin took over for Austria it looked like Germany was going to run away with the game. Austria did a super job of turning around a three-center Austria with practically no hope for a future to an impressive eighteen center win. I don't know what you said Dick, but it must have been good!

I was pleased that there were only two player changes in the game and one of those was a resignation. Thanks to all the players for making it a fun game to GM and watch.

FAVORITE FLAVORS/FAVORITE ZINES

This was really an attempt to find out which ones of you won't be resubbing!

The following are the qualities you listed as important to a postal diplomacy zine:

Flavors

- The material & timeliness of it.
- Accuracy of the GM'ing.
- Good reading material.
- Well run games, quick turnaround.
- Reading material.
- Other stuff (articles, art, other games, commentary).
- Turnaround time is most important.
- Good maps, sharp reports.
- Punctuality.
- The author.
- A large letter column.
- A good read, and an honest, helpful attitude toward the Postal hobby, are the two most important qualities I look for in a zine. A sense of humor helps. It also helps if the zine appears relatively on time.
- Punctuality.
- Accuracy and clear reports.
- Good, slick press!
- I think timeliness is most important. Players lose interest if there are long delays in getting results.
- Must be fun.
- Humor and a certain (indescribable) style have always been paramount to my enjoyment of a zine.
- I judge each Dippy zine by how well it achieves its stated (or implied) goals, not by how well it does what I think it should.

((Jim here)) As you can see, most people prefer something more than the bread and butter offering of a warehouse zine. Fortunately, the hobby possesses many different zines which can fill the preferences of the typical subber. A niche audience, however, is what I prefer. I'll leave the masses to those who can handle their needs.

Favorite Zines

The name of the pubber of the zine mentioned is in single parens (). The author of comments provided with their ballot is identified by double parens (()). If a zine got more than one vote, that is noted also.

Europa Express (Gary Coughlin) (3):

"My favorite zine of all time...next to all others, in my humble opinion ((Guy Hail)), although I only subbed and played in those I enjoyed such as The Prince and Gaughan's Perelandra [alas, Pete has left Arlington Texas for the insane "civilization" of San Francisco and Perelandra has left me behind.]"

Costaguana (Conrad von Metzke) (3)

Perelandra (Pete Gaughan) (2)

Voice of Doom (Bruce Linsey) (2) "Was a good time. Lots of controversy ...!!"((Al Incorvaia)). "My favorite zine; great letter column, timely publication, and last but not least, I played my 'Dream Game' in that zine - Rigel. Close seconds: Europa Express, Sleepless Knights" ((Nelson Heintzman))

The Inner Light (Keith Sherwood) (2)

Ohio Acres (Robert Greier) & Fiat

Bellum "...were the best for reading!"((Kathy Caruso))

Penguin Dip (Stephen Dorneman)

Sleepless Knights:

"...by Dave Carter - this was my first zine and my introduction to others in the hobby as I began to "spread my wings!"((Rob Winslow))"

Lone Star Diplomat:

"...affectionately known as LSD, (it) was put out by R. Michael Conner from Austin, TX. It was the forerunner of today's slicker than slick rags, such as UPSTART. The last issue (#65) was in March 1988. So typically of the hobby in general, as a subscriber I followed Conner through his divorce and his hepatitis, his lean times and his subsequent prosperity. He was ahead of his peers in the quality of his game reports.((Paul Milewski))"

Retaliation (Dick Martin)
Maniac's Paradise. (Douglas Kent)
Raging Main (James Woodson) "My
favorite zine of all time...because
of its nautical flavor and because
of a great game that I played in
with Mark Fassio. ((Ken Hager))"

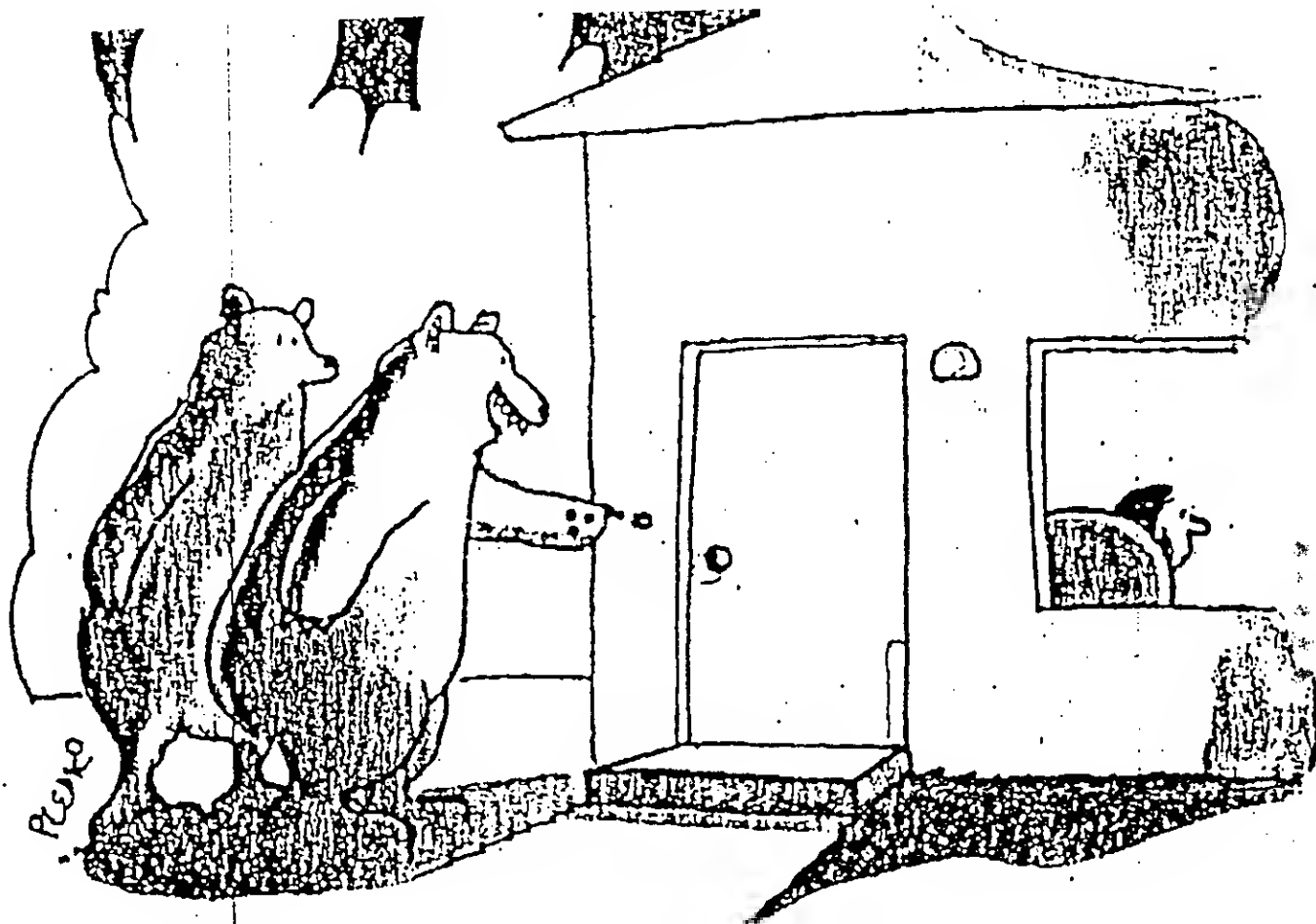
Redwood Curtain (Kevin Tighe)
Appalling Greed (Mark Larzelere)
UPSTART (Garret Schenck)
Brutus Bulletin (John Michalski)
No Fixed Address (Steve Hutton)
Cheesecake (Andy Lischett)
So I Lied (Marc Peters)
Xenogogic, Diplomacy World, & World
Diplomacy (Larry Peery)
The Boob Report (Jim Burgess) "I used
to need hobby news, but that clearly
isn't the case anymore as I am happy
with just Burgess' Boob
Report." ((Keith Sherwood))

Special Subbers

The following current subscribers to
The Prince have been on board since
issue numero uno!

Kathy Caruso
Paul Milewski
Nelson Heintzman
Pat Conlon
Rob Winslow

From this list, only Pat has visited me
in Alaska. Remember, free room, board
and tour guide if you come up to visit!

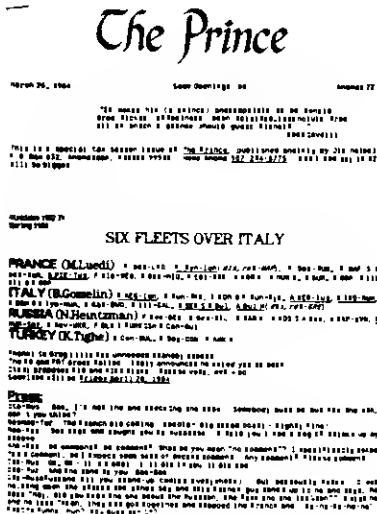


*"It's the dangedest thing I ever seen. You just push this
button, a bell rings, and a snack pops out."*

THE ULTIMATE RECOLLECTION

The Prince has chronicled a lot in its 100 issues. The following is a trip through over eight and a half years of princely publishing.

#1 9/23/82 Inaugural issue...Went out to about 113 people...25 cents an issue, \$5.00 gamefee...Prophetic play games, following Guy Hail's The Great War in Modern Memory...I resided at 628 Whitworth Lane, Renton, WA.



#2 10/14/82 1st game started, Medici...Senior at college, told of my campus recruiting efforts...Ran three week games 'til I moved to Alaska.

#3 11/4/82 Article on how to write prophetic play orders.

#4 11/25/82 Second gamestart, Atrides...Announced Jack Fleming's Paranoiac's Monthly closing down...Ran some riddles.

#5 12/16/82 Struck out on my Big 8 interviews...More riddles...My Player Reliability Ratings...A non-dip friend, Chuck Burks, ran 1982 rock song ratings.

#6 1/13/83 Third game offered as regular dip, no more prophetic play...my only subber letter column run.

#7 2/3/83 Picked up an orphan game, The Iron Dream...studying for the CPA exam...essay by Jim on dippers vs. real life...article on prophetic play.

#8 2/24/83 Subzine Humboldt begins - runs (with a few breaks) for fifty issues...1982 Freshman zine poll puts me seventh - Magus first, Perelandra second, North Sealth West George fifth, No Fixed Address sixth.

#9 3/17/83 Article on how I will construe poorly written orders.

#10 4/7/83 Got my job...article on my job interview trip to Anchorage.

#11 4/28/83 Recap of SealthCon at Tallman's house...ad to sell my wargames...2 new gamestarts puts me at running 8 games.

#12 5/19/83 Raised sub rate to 50 cents...ran subber questionnaire results.

#13 6/9/83 Graduated from college...broken L's on typewriter.

#14 6/30/83 Offer to sell my zines...love affair with credit cards begins.

#15 7/21/83 Last issue from Washington...

#16 9/4/83 First issue from Alaska...articles on Anchorage...excerpts from the Great Soviet Encyclopedia...deadlines move to four weeks.

#17 10/3/83 More on Anchorage...put out a call for subzines.

#18 11/7/83 Three more subzines - Galamatias, The Littel Dipper and Perlmutter's Revenge...Meinel for President...article, how to be a good dip player...troubles with the USPS...Humboldt #11.

- ```
#19 12/19/83 Anchorage article...article on my trip to San Diego, met Keith
Sherwood, James Woodson & Larry Peery.
#20 1/22/84 Parchment paper! this lasted until issue #24 ...typed on the
Apple Lisa, this lasted until issue #29.
#21 2/20/84 Passed the CPA exam...moved to a new apartment.
#22 3/26/84 Classic warehouse...large print Lisa parchment.
#23 4/23/84 More warehouse...printed sub list shows 53 bodies.
#24 5/20/84 Bought a Commodore 64...four subzines still at it.
#25 6/17/84 Kevin Tighe's visit to Alaska...article on my Commodore 64.
#26 7/14/84 '84 Runestone Poll puts us at #4...subzine porno, courtesy of
the G subzine.
#27 8/13/84 Meeting of Tighe, Meinel & Mark Lew...new game openings.
#28 9/24/84 My trip to Hawaii...subzines to strike out on their own.
#29 10/21/84 Presidential debates... bought my white Subaru ...zine printed
on legal paper off and on through issue #45.
#30 11/19/84 More warehouse...Humboldt #22, TLD #13.
#31 12/24/84 Three games ended...movie review, Dune.
#32 1/27/85 Pages of endgame statements...Tighe's witty response to my movie
review.
#33 2/24/85 First Prince player ratings...a chill wind blows...
#34 3/23/85 Then wife & I split up...last issue of Wilcox's TLD.
#35 4/20/85 Warehouse without Humboldt.
#36 5/27/85 More warehouse, still without Humboldt.
#37 7/16/85 Humboldt returns, but Jim announces his imminent fold.
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## The Prince

[illegible]

- #38 9/8/85 Subbers noticing the pubber's troubles...still more warehouse.
- #39 10/6/85 Humboldt carrying the load...strange linear separators.
- #40 11/4/85 Yes again, warehouse.
- #41 12/16/85 Divorce is final...visit to Portland & saw Tighe...saw Mark Lew in a play...down to 2 games.
- #42 1/20/86 Got back together with former girlfriend, current wife - can you tell?...announce my upcoming summer trip back east...camping in Glenallen.

- #42.5 3/2/86 Lost my zines (but found them later) so I delayed my games...Trappers & Miner's Ball at Fur Rendezvous.
- #43 3/15/86 Ran my sublist, down to 11...map of our upcoming trip.
- #44 4/22/86 Sex and a pubber's zine size...middle name contest, James Harrison and J.D. win.
- #45 5/31/86 Humboldt's research into sex & zine size...my new middle initial and name.
- #46 7/26/86 Warehouse, and Anchorage pizza prices.
- #47 8/31/86 A little bit on those I met in the hobby back east...wanted to become a subzine when the games were over.
- #48 10/5/86 Final two games ended..looks like this is kaput.
- #49 2/24/87 Triumphant return, after Tighe declares me dead...lots of Alaska articles, new approach to pubbing (small & beautiful).
- #50 3/23/87 No games yet...Anchorage & Alaska maps.
- #51 4/26/87 More Alaska...pilgrimage to Tallmantown.
- #52 5/18/87 Humboldt returns, gone since #45...photograph of pubber taped to each copy...new game (Rommel)...houserules.
- #53 6/19/87 Oil crash in Alaska...Alaska articles.
- #54 7/13/87 Trip to Champagne-Urbana, Illinois...Kinkos being snotty about xeroxing copywrited materials (cartoons).
- #55 8/16/87 Zine reviews...pubber turning 28...visit from Pat Conlon.
- #56 9/13/87 Five year anniversary issue, couldn't you tell?...printed subber list at 13, figure to remain virtually unchanged for almost 50 issues.
- #57 10/15/87 Winter in Alaska...up the corporate ladder...purple paper.
- #58 11/16/87 LAST SUBMITTED ISSUE OF HUMBOLDT - nothing but questions from Kevin...hobby chatter.
- #59 12/14/87 Four pages of a day in the life of a CPA.
- #60 1/17/88 Househunting...ill-fated Super Bowl prediction..trying to fill that second game of dip.
- #61 2/21/88 More househunting.
- #62 3/20/88 Lincoln finally starts...the trouble with typewriter ribbons.
- #63 4/17/88 Paul Gardner gets engaged...more houserules.
- #64 4/24/88 Frivolous tax returns...very funny press from Conlon.

- #65 5/15/88 Alaska Visitor's Guide enclosed...farewell to Scott Hanson, who announced he was leaving the postal hobby.
- #66 6/11/88 Proposed to Jenae, wedding next May.
- #67 7/24/88 2801 Pelican becomes the Meinel abode...shocking orange.
- #68 8/21/88 Wh-wh-warehouse.
- #69 9/18/88 Pyrrhus begins...motoring to Homer on margarita power...fixing up the house...computer hunting.
- #70 10/23/88 Flu bugs and hot dog sales...article on game notation.
- #71 11/20/88 Conlon comes to our Halloween party...longest single press release in zine history(1 2/3 pages, datelined Gulf of Bothnia)...last issue with a "The Prince" masthead until #99.

# HUMBOLDT



How does zinc oxide affect your life?  
 When is your room not a room?  
 What do you say after they ask, "What's Rise?"  
 Why are they called strawberries?  
 Who gets a phone call and who gets a letter?  
 What is the difference between Darryl Hannah and Lisa Boninger?  
 If there are bells on the hill, do you ever hear them ringing?  
 Why Gerald?  
 Do you feel hairy when scraping ice off your windshield?  
 Whenever your units are alternated do your ears explode?  
 Do you notice misspelled words?  
 When was the last time you noticed your  
 Do you know anyone who's met John Boardman?  
 Have you ever walked by a firehouse and yelled, "Movie!"  
 In the mail you get a mine, personal letter, game letter, phone bill,  
 newsletter, magazine, and four pieces of junk mail. What color is  
 the mailman's ass?  
 Can you prove you aren't freemasonry right now?  
 What are the historical reasons for Germany beer being drank?  
 Isn't it time you donated your clothes to Goodwill?  
 Would absolute knowledge be boring?  
 What happened to Roebuck?  
 When do you explain Dix to a new girlfriend?  
 Why Alabama on TV?  
 If you were a t-shirt what would you say?  
 Are you embarrassed by vomit?  
 How many Chevy Chase movies have you seen?  
 If you saw a UFO would you tell anyone?  
 What puts the ape in apert?  
 If Machiavelli didn't write "The Prince", would Delahue have created  
 Diplomacy?  
 Did you keep your favorite stuffed animal?  
 Why Ishtar?  
 Would you rather see a game, go dancing, or watch the VHS?  
 If Aleasa sunk into the ocean, how high would the tidal wave be?

Just wondering,  
*Kevin*

- #72 12/18/88 The IBM OS/2 Model 25 arrives, oh boy oh boy oh boy...all following issues on this machine, and unfailingly on white paper until #89.
- #73 1/15/89 Tried to run a variant, ha ha...promotion to Audit Manager...more house stuff...Soapy Smith Awards.
- #74 2/12/89 Warehouse, and broken German press.
- #75 3/12/89 Taking conversational German class, announce the Germany trip itinerary...Pat Conlon's 'how cold was it' when Fairbanks got to 74 below (now that's COLD).
- #76 4/15/89 Prince William Sound oil spill by Exxon...tried to let you know how many days mail took to get here, that lasted only two issues.
- #77 5/7/89 Rommel ends...Conlon's ode to Big Oil.
- #78 6/11/89 Married and been abroad with this issue...a couple pages on the Germany trip.
- #79 7/8/89 12 pages of my journal I kept on our Germany trip - installment one of three...everyone got a German beer coaster with this issue.

- #80 8/9/89 Five more pages of the trip...trip to San Diego, dinner with Larry Peery...I get a Toshiba 1200HB at work.
- #81 9/4/89 Last seven pages of Germany trip...Otto begins.
- #82 10/8/89 Fantasy football has been discovered by Jim...now running three Dipgames.



## TALES OF THE DIPIMASTER

It was the Great Age of Zine. The Zines of the Ancients ruled the domains at that time: Brutus Zine, Appalling Zine, Lone Star Zine, Paranoiac's Zine, White Zine, Zine of Doom, Ex-Zine of Europa, Irkzine, Northern Zine of West Zines and Zine Retaliation were all at their zeenith. Young Luke was amazed at the constellation of powers above him.

The Prophet was known to Luke - ever wandering the forests and plains of his homeworld. The elderly black man was blind, and had a speech he carried and called out at anyone he could stumble up to.

"I have a Zine!" he would start. "A Zine that is not judged by the color of its paper, but the conscience of its pubber." And on and on, until Luke grew short with the man and walked away. But the voice continued to dwell in Luke's mind.

One day, when Luke was toiling in the fields, a new voice carressed his conscience. It was an older voice, seductive, enticing, beckoning..."Use the Zine, Luke" it cooed. He could not resist. He succumbed to its charms.

"I have a Zine!" Luke cried. "I will use it to slay the Deadline Dragons of the galaxy, the Paradox Pegasi will wither before its power, and even the NMR Nemurs will quake before it! I will wield it for the benefit of not the DipiMasters, but for the freedom-loving backstabbers of the hobby.!" The voice returned. "May the Zine be with you."

Luke wielded his Zine artfully. Along the way he acquired a co-pilot, Hum of Zine. Hum did not speak English, but Luke provided translation services so his followers could understand the magical incantations of Hum. After Hum of Zine, the True Followers arrived. Sir Galizine, Little Zine and the Pearl of Zine were joined with Zine and made it stronger. The voice in Luke's head returned once more, "Do not underestimate the power of the Zine."

Soon, the power of the Zine became too large for the region of Wash to accomodate it. So Luke took his Zine and its True Followers to a land so large that its vastness could contain it, The Great Land. So the Zine journeyed north. Hum of Zine declared, "I don't think we're in Kansas anymore!"

But, tragically, the Empire came. It's Evil cast a dark shadow on all before it. Luke tried to ignore it, but could not. He toiled in the field with his True Followers but it was too big. And the voice returned once again, "Use the Zine Luke!" So he did, but it was still too much. The Great Evil won over, and his Followers were scattered across the land. Hum of Zine grew moody at the despondancy of Luke, and the Zine lay there, sullied from the effort in defeat. These were dark times for the DipiMaster.

The Hungry Years followed, alone in the Wilderness. The Zine's power became small, but though the True Followers had scattered, the Brethren remained. They were the few, the thirteen, who stayed with the DipiMaster, even in the face of Luke's tortured efforts to cast them away. They remained. They believed in the power of the Zine. Luke plodded forward, not realizing the underlying power remaining.

The voice in his head returned one last time. "Use the Zine, Luke!" it cried. "Find those from the Scattering, and return them to the fold!" Luke at first did not believe, but tried nevertheless. The Scattered returned, the power of the Zine returned, and he heard that voice once more say, "Never underestimate the power of the Zine."



## ^^^ WHAT I DID IN THE EIGHTIES ^^^

(and am willing to tell about)

Question: Have there been any major changes/accomplishments in your life you'd like to share with us?

Paul Milewski - There is too much to tell. I am 42, still alive, and the world has not come to an end.

Bruce Reiff - Actually, I got married after I started subbing, but I was engaged previously.

Glenn Sherrill - Your letter did find me; I'm still here at Capitol Reef NP. Hard for me to believe, but I've been here six years now...Ann and I were in Alaska for two weeks last summer and spent a couple of days in Anchorage. If I'd thought that you were still there I sure would have tried to look you up. We had a great time and packed quite a bit into those two weeks. Visited with several park ranger friends in several different National Park areas.

Ben Schilling - Finished MBA in 1986, spent three months working in Egypt in June-August 1988.

Karl Hoffman - Graduation from college. I was a junior when I began subbing to Prince in January 1989.

Paul Gardner - A form letter? Well, I guess that's one way to handle it. Afraid I don't have time right now with a newborn at home (she's less than 2 weeks) and it's time for me to cook dinner.

Terry Tallman - Marriage. Several moves. Computers. More computers. Bought a house on the beach near Manchester (Port Orchard).

□ James Meinel was admitted as a principal at F.M. Strand P.C., local certified public accounting firm. Meinel has been with the company since 1983. He is responsible for providing audit, accounting, litigation support and business advisory services to clients.



Meinel

Jack Fleming - Latest fascination is ham radio - not much time or interest for Diplomacy.

Keith Schneider - It has only been 8 months. I've started college. That's about it.

Nelson Heintzman - Two most concrete and positive changes include the successful completion of my Masters Degree and the purchase of my own mobile home.

Rob Winslow - I started in the Prince as a college student. Since then I have worked, gone back to grad school, moved from Rochester, NY to Washington D.C. and now work as an environmental consultant. My next goal is to get out of D.C.!

Kathy Caruso - Look at it this way, I went from a young city girl to a grandmother fighting the possums in her backyard. I survived culture shock, middle age and my grandchildren since we first met.

Derwood Bowen - Marriage (4 years now, 1 son).

Mark Frueh - Got married - 10/86. Moved to Chicago - 9/88. Nancy & I went to Europe - 10/89 (Italy & Yugoslavia). Turned 30 - 9/7/90. Got my shoulder operation - 11/29/90. Finally learned how to play "1830" - Jan. 1991. Been playing a lot of Bridge since 6/88.

Gary Coughlan - Yeah, I'm gay and I've accepted it gladly. I've donated 4 gallons of blood to Lifeblood. I've left my mobile home for a 3-bedroom house. I own a golden retriever named "Thor".

Guy Hail - Real life is a tough question. I've an MLIS (Master of Library and Information Science) which I acquired in 1988. I learned so much about the library field that I'll have nothing to do with it. I quit school for a year to work for West End Games in New York, which was unpleasant and unfulfilling, but which I don't regret. After all, I got to meet a lot of terrific people, including Greg Costikyan, with whom I still have

occasional correspondance. While working in NYC, Libby and I lived in a small apartment on the Jersey shore, which was quite beautiful and cozy. I still recall the local deli and bakery with delight, and the time I walked to the train station while my breath frosted my face (being a Texan who doesn't snow ski, that kind of thing hadn't happened to me before).

I am still married to Elizabeth, whom some Diplomacy players met when we went to a local con in St. Louis with Gary Coughlin. Our 13th anniversary approaches, and may coincide with publication of issue #100 of The Prince. She works for the Austin Public Library in the same department I did while attending library school.

I am working my tail to numbness struggling as a freelance writer of fiction (under an assumed name, so I wouldn't reveal which stories were mine even if I had been published - which I haven't, yet). I attended the 1988 Clarion West Writers' Workshop in Seattle, and while there tried to take a day to go to Alaska, 'cause I've never been. I managed not to make it to Alaska, but now I wish I had.

I am planning on attending the next two World Science Fiction Convention in Chicago in '91 and Orlando in '92. There Libby will be selling sketches and paintings and prints of her drawings.

Fred C. Davis, Jr. - In August 1985, I retired from my Civil Service job with the Social Security Adm., having completed 33 years of Govt. service. In December 1986, we sold our house in Baltimore County, and moved out to Howard Co. so that my son could attend a much superior high school.

In the Postal Hobby, I took over the Custodianship of the North American Variant Bank from Rod Walker in October 1985. In 1988, I won the Rod Walker Literary Award for my production of the revised NAVB Catalog. In April 1989, I turned the NAVB over to Lee Kendter, Jr. I folded my zine, BUSHWACKER, in August 1990, although I'm still finishing one game by flyer. Also in 1990, I won

the Don Miller Award for Meritorious Service to the Hobby for my 18 1/2 years for non-stop publication of BUSHWACKER and my formation of the Mensa Postal Diplomacy SIG, which has brought many new people into the Hobby over the past 16 years.

Greg Ellis - Started subbing to The Prince in January 1983 - also my first semester of college. Now have one child (3 years/girl), a BBA (1986) and a JD (1988).

James Wall - Lots, but still not much.

Keith Sherwood - Got married, have had respectable job for five years, re-entered postal hobby after several year hiatus. We honeymooned in Alaska (cruise up from Vancouver, 2 nights in Anchorage, 1 night in Denali) and I like to think your zine with early commentary on life up there just after your move (I particularly remember the story of moose in streets and backyards) had something to do with alerting me to the possibilities.

Ken Hager - Moved eight times, the most significant being a relocation from Los Angeles to Washington D.C. Became divorced. Changed jobs three times (including leaving the CIA which I'm on the brink of doing).

Larry Peery - During the five years (mid-1986 to mid-1990) I was responsible for DIPLOMACY WORLD many, many things happened to me. I lost five people in my family in three years, took two extensive trips to Europe, had three near escapes with death in less than a year, moved into my own home, changed careers, and still managed to get 20 issues of DW out on time. Youth is gone now, but fondly remembered. Middle age, if not maturity, has caught up with me. Although I have much to look back on with fond memories, and even some regrets, I still prefer to look ahead to what's coming (e.g. the new zine, PEERICON XI, DIPCON in Toronto). The nice thing is that even if I were to die tomorrow I would, as Piaf said, regret nothing. I have lived life well.

And a last comment by our favorite CPA, Buz Eddy, on page

⇒  $\text{csgf}.$

April 20, 1984      Game Openings: Gunbest Stand-bys      Number 6

Re Stephen Wilcox. He lives at 5300 W. Gulf Bank #103, Houston TX 77058. He phone number is (713) 820-6035. He likes COOKIES! It's amazing how my 17 month old son has effected my televisive viewing and my vocabulary.

OPENING PROJECT MEETING

below is a list of games which I do not have complete results necessary to include them in my project. For those of you that are still not aware of what I am talking about, I am asking all GM's and players alike to send me the Spring 1901 orders and the 1901 Supply Center chart (not just the numbers) of each game these are involved in which has a 1901 or 1900 Boardman Number. I plan to combine these into a 2 fold chart with results available to everyone. I have the board set cost. I am not yet to receive my 1901 set, so I have listed only 1903 games below. Again, these are the games which I do not have complete results for.

1983 C,H,J,L,K,O,F,J,R,S,T,Y  
 AB,AC,AE,AJ,AU,AK,AS,AU,AX  
 CM,CC,CD,CJ,CN,CO,CF,CE,CT,CG,CH,CY  
 HA,HE,HF,HC,HM,HI,HJ,HN,HP,HR,HS,HT,HW,IX,IY,IZ  
 LA,LB,LC,LE,LF,LI,LS,IN,II,IJ

If you have the information I need on any of these games, I would greatly appreciate your sending it to me.

**SENTENCE 1E TO DEATH**

This is a new feature that will appear regularly in FID. At the end of the series, you, the readers, will have created so entertaining short story. The way this will work is I will start the story off with a few words. I would like anyone interested to submit a short continuation of the story. I will choose one which I think is most interesting and publish it. I will leave the rest of the story until unfail and maybe someday it will even end. A few guidelines for your entries: 1) Entries must contain between 5 and 50 words (inclusive). 2) Entries must end in an uncompleted sentence (ie. I turned the corner just at time to see...). I am looking for a story somewhere between harling and funny. I want something that is different from what we get in our magazines. I want people to participate; each issue, the person who submits the chosen entry will receive one free issue of FID. So, let the story begin.

Thinking back, it all started with the game. I remember...

AQUARIUS 1984Grb32  
Spring 1901

WESTERN POWERS SHOW INTEREST IN BELGION  
RUSSIA/AUSTRIA BOUNCE IN GALICIA LEAVING EACH DOOR OPEN

|         |       |   |      |       |   |     |       |   |                  |
|---------|-------|---|------|-------|---|-----|-------|---|------------------|
| AUSTRIA | P Tri | - | ADR  | A YIF | - | Gal | A Doc | - | SHR              |
| ENGLAND | P Lon |   | ATM  | P E41 | - | NRG | A Lrv | - | YOS              |
| FRANCE  | P Bre |   | t LD | A Par | - | NRG | A Lrv | - | SPA              |
| GERMANY | P Ali |   | MOA  | A Ber | - | KIZ | A Soc | - | RUM              |
| ITALY   | A An  |   | VEN  | A Vno | - | TIO | P Mac | - | IGM              |
| RUSSIA  | P StP |   | SOT  | A MGR | - | Gal | A Soc | - | UKR, P Sev - NUR |
| TURKEY  | P Ank |   | ELA  | A Sey | - | ARG | A Kuo | - | MOL              |

If you said to yourself, something's missing in this game report, you're right. The names of the players have not been listed. This is Gumbat. The game is being run on a 2-week deadline flyer. Each issue of TLD will report the moves made thus far in the game and a commentary by Greg Ellis will follow. Jim has graciously allowed us to expand TLD to two pages so that both Greg and I can say everything we want.

FAVORITE MEMORY: "I have not had overwhelming response to my contest on creating a dip-related word search puzzle. As a matter of fact, I have not had any response."

Auntie Em,  
Hate you. Hate Kansas. Taking the dog.  
Dorothy

104-10000 104-10000

Bease I can't even be prtoted sideways when I want to be (printed sideways).  
Lord knows what is going to happen this time. To refrain your sensory I see  
Kevie Tiggs, living at 230 12th Str, Arcata, Calif. 95521. Remember that  
address, there's a cula at the havtoe of the page.

I'd like to lay to rest the false notion many people have that all of my sublines are in some sort of competition with each other. Of course, this is nonsense. It doesn't matter to me which subline you respect more, or which one gets the most laughs. I'm just trying to put out a humorous, readable, and informative subline; something that could make Alexander von Humboldt ~~feel~~ proud. I can care less about what those other thuricologists have to write.

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Dusohlet county to the south. Last month, two men from Durack and one from Arcadia quit their jobs at the lumber mill and set off into the redwoods on a hunt down Bigfoot. Their story was printed locally and quickly forgotten. However UPI and AP got a hold of it and the guys became household celebrities. Letters were written by animal lovers to Florida, science fiction freaks to the editor of the Los Angeles Times and the guys were invited to give a lecture on their hunting trip on dangerous, mythical and arcane Bigfoot ways. It is to laugh.

All these guys want to do is go hunting and camping for 4-5 months. What better way to kill time than by "stalling" Bigfoot? In Sept they'll come out with stories of a few close calls and some huge plasters taken at dusk. They'll write a book recounting their hardy adventures and retire from the royalties. This is a bigger scam than Princess Di's retina.

## Space Literacy

with all the many spots on the space program we should be able to get, if not memorable statements, at least some intelligent remarks by our astronauts. I'm referring to the Gus Grissom syndrome of "hey, it sure looks pretty down there," honestly, the first astronaut to float free to space without a word said, "It may have been one small step for Neil, but it sure was a big jump for me." Hyatt, Hyatt. In the future I's ~~sure~~ sure we can look forward to statements like, "Two, look at that red sand," and "those rings really are something."

As long as I'm complaining, do you own a digital watch? Does it beep on the half hour? Why do you need that? Turn that sucker off. and make sure it's off before you see a play or movie. If you've ever heard the "beep, beep" while watching Fanny and Alexander you'll know what I'm talking about.

|                       | <u>Celentano</u> | <u>Humboldt</u> | <u>Little Dipper</u> | <u>Parkmanns Bay</u> |
|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Number of chuckles    | .....            | .....           | .....                | .....                |
| " " gruffs            | .....            | .....           | .....                | .....                |
| " " v                 | .....            | .....           | .....                | .....                |
| " " silly giggles     | .....            | .....           | .....                | .....                |
| Moment of cut-throat- |                  |                 |                      |                      |
| ing laughter followed |                  |                 |                      |                      |
| immediately by a re-  |                  |                 |                      |                      |
| signed sigh and a     |                  |                 |                      |                      |
| small tear on the     |                  |                 |                      |                      |
| right eye             | .....            | .....           | .....                | .....                |

Total and divide by the number of paragraphs to each subline.  
Mark them 1-4 for each category, total and divide by five.  
Connect the dots with a No. 2 pencil to form a star. Most complex maps  
with a free lesson of Geology.  
Buy to your content base. It'll be useful to your students.

I didn't put out so much last month because I didn't have anything to say, and keep any smart remarks to myself.

Quick now, what's the fourth number of my zip code? . . . I tote you to pay attention.

**FAVORITE MEMORY:** Every issue.

(people I really wanted to hear from)

KEVIN TIGHE - Cross a mime with a writing instrument and you'll see a Kevin Tighe. A writer extraordinaire when it came to appropriating a well-known writer's style and using it masterfully to tell a dip story. Or seizing upon a mere strand of an oddball suggestion and fully developing and carrying it to a most illogical (and always humorous) conclusion. He published Humboldt in these pages and spun off The Redwood Curtain, a zine that almost always came with more than the paper it was written on. Alas, the old address in Arcata is not answering. When I knew Kevin he resided there with roommates, and worked in a bakery. He was a cartographer by education, and traveler by experience; in the summer of 1984 he spent the summer in Anchorage working and seeing The Great Land, and it was then we met and got to know each other personally. We came to know each other as co-players in Mark Larzelere's Appalling Greed, the best damn three-week players' zine ever. Kevin & I also got together briefly in Portland in December 1985. If I had the money to hire a private investigator, I would send him to the annual Shakespearean festival held in southern Oregon, for Kevin was telling me he hadn't missed it in eight years. I'm sure that he hasn't to this day, and all I wish would be for a card from him letting me know that the world is not such a serious place after all.

BOB GOSSELIN - Who could forget a guy who lived in La Luz, New Mexico? Bob & I met in a game a long, long time ago in a zine far, far back in my memory. I believe it ended in a two way draw between us in a DIAS game, so you know that had to be the start of something good. I don't think we ever played in another game together, but he was a charter subber to The Prince. He even briefly ran a sub-sub zine, Gosling. (Probably an inside joke between he and Kevin Tighe I never got.) Bob and I were telephone diplomats so we had a chance to get to know each other a little better. He worked for the federal government doing some sort of research testing on monkeys in the New Mexican desert. The thought was always too Hitchcock-esque for me to question him closer on. Towards the end of our contact he told me he had started up a little seafood business on the side. He would drive to the Gulf of Mexico, load up on fresh seafood from the dock, and drive back to La Luz and sell it (at an enormous profit, I would imagine). Bob & I lost touch during my divorce travails, and I still wonder where the effects of dip, monkeys and fish have taken him to this day.

Mark Luedi - I cannot recall if Mark & I ever played in a game together. I think so, and he probably was in on a thugging of me which is why resist recalling the game. What I do remember is that we started publishing our zines at about the same time, back in the summer of 1982. I chose the rather boring name of The Prince, but Mark forever enshrined himself in the annals of hobby history by dreaming up and going with the name, Thirty Miles of Bad Road. I cannot say if this was autobiographical, but as every pubber knows, their zine's name has some self-reflection to it. I cannot pick out any quality of Mark's zine that stood out, but many other subbers of his will attest to an ambiance and character of IMoBR that had a powerful attraction. All now that is left of Mark (from this viewpoint of the world) is the rock-solid address of Box 2424 Bloomington, IN. No response to date, which may portend more than the thirty miles Mark may have been hoping for.

# THE PRINCE INTERVIEW: Jim Meinel

*A brief interview by Gary Coughlan with the man behind the Machiavelli quotes - on morals, hobby changes, and the enigmatic Mark Lew.*

**Question:** Your zine was based on Machiavelli...have you ever...in the zine, the hobby or life used his principles? If so, how?

MEINEL: As to whether I have employed Machiavelli's principles, that's a tough one for me to answer. Obviously I admire him to some degree, since I chose to name my zine after his greatest work. But on the other hand, Niccolo was trying to curry favor at the time he wrote it, so it is difficult to determine if this approach to life is a realistic one (especially for an enlightened 20th century mind).

I had a tough time with this question, so I asked my wife to answer the question for me. She thought that I didn't directly employ his methods, but I seemed to nevertheless achieve my goals. (I guess I make it look effortless) That response gave me a thread to base my answer on: I try to see potential problems/ opportunities/ challenges far enough in advance where it doesn't take a Machiavellian effort to get what I want - just a little nudge here and there. In a pinch, though, the end very often justifies the means, and realpolitik works more often than not.



This zine's contribution to the general hobby is very small. But I like to think its effect on the subbers is somewhat more significant.



Making mistakes is inevitable when GM'ing. The true test is what you do to fix them.



Yes, it's true - I actually wanted to be BNC at one time! Incredible! I don't think the powers that be would appreciate my 'small but beautiful' viewpoint.

Question: How has the hobby changed, in your viewpoint, from 1986 to 1991?

MEINEL: I am not really the person to ask about hobby changes over the last five years. Prior to 1986 I received dozens of zines, since then I get maybe three or four. I really don't know what's going on today in the hobby. My biggest change is that I have found my comfort level of participation in the hobby, one that fits in well with my other pursuits. Running two games and playing in one or two is what I can fit into my life and still have fun.

I try to stay plugged into the hobby throw the "institutional" publications - Diplomacy World, Everything, and Zine Register. Of course, these don't capture the "feel" of what's going on in the hobby. I will say the hobby seems calmer, but hey, I'm way up here in Alaska getting boring zines, how else could I think?



People write and say I'm a good writer when I do make the effort - why don't I do it more? Well, writing is hard work, and putting out this zine is supposed to be fun.



Even though I'm GM'ing a game, I know damn little about what's going on, alliance-wise. So when a player talks to me on the phone about it, it's all news to me.

Question: Have you ever met Mark Lew? If so, describe him.

I met Mark Lew in the summer of 1985 when Kevin Tighe was here. At the time, he was like a senior in high school and had never left the city limits of Anchorage. Medium height, slim build, dark complexion, he was a very interesting fellow to talk to. Later on that winter Jenae and I saw him perform as the fiddler in a production of Fiddler on the Roof by the university. Apparently he finally escaped from Alaska as I saw he was publishing Benzene from the San Francisco Bay Area. Last I heard, Mark was still in California.

→  
more!



I can't really say if I'll still be doing this in another one-hundred issues - that'd be about December 1999. Wow.

*Associate interviewer, Jenae K. Meinel,  
with some followup inquiries:*

**QUESTION:** You had a lot of goals when you first started publishing. Have they been met? Are there any that you still would like to achieve?

MEINEL: The goals I started out with were fairly simple at the time; to run a good game of Dip for the players. In that respect, I think I have achieved that goal (with some allowances made for going through a rough divorce). Beyond that, I did take a stab at running articles, cartoons (never letters) and the like, and I was making some headway. But the extra effort involved in adding these characteristics contributed to the near flame-out around issue #49. This issue #100, then, is sort of a lame attempt to "make up" to my subbers for the severity of the warehouse quality they have been subjected to for so very long.

Another goal, I may add, is for the zine to look sharp. That has slipped over the years, and it's due to sheer laziness on my part. That, and wanting to get the zine out of the house as quickly as possible once the games are adjudicated. So I have not kept up on that goal of mine.

Future goals? Pretty much more of the same. I want to run a couple more games, seeing as my mandate is to run games for players. The price for a game may go up, but I'm still mulling that one over.



I gave up trying to explain this hobby to Real Life people a long time ago. If I think someone may be open to the concept, that automatically disqualifies them as a Real Life person.



I'm just getting back into playing postally again. My ten year old son generates a lot of the excitement, by asking me who I've crushed lately. I should get beat a couple times, to teach both of us humility.



If a zine is to be judged on the proportion of really neat people subscribing to it, then I've got the best damn zine in the hobby.



**QUESTION:** Your son, Patrick (10 years old), seems to be very interested in the games you play. Do you think you will encourage him to play later, or maybe even to GM in your footsteps?

MEINEL: As most of my subbers know, my son lives with his mom in Seattle. We talk at least once a week on the phone (usually more) and I get to be with him two or three times a year. He has taken a real interest in the fantasy sport leagues I play in and the Dip games I play. He also really enjoys the role playing games, but his exposure to this is via computer. (he's never participated in a face-to-face role-playing game, not yet at least!) As a parent I would be loathe to force, or even extremely encourage him to do anything in the way of recreational choices, as I hated that when I was a kid myself. But since Dad is doing it, and he has two uncles on his mom's side who are gamers, I suspect he will try out the hobby for himself some day. All I can say is if we ever get into a game together, watch your back!

**QUESTION:** How close does a DipCon have to be before you would attend one?

MEINEL: As you should know, my dear, proximity has nothing to do with it. Cost does. I annually fly out of state on business, and also get to Seattle once or twice a year in addition to that. I scan the Cons happening at the time to see if there is any chance I can make a minor sidetrip to attend one. To date, I've made it to a Peericon and that's about it. But I'm always looking, and hoping to meet up with some of my subbers and co-players.



I kid my subbers a lot on not coming to visit Alaska. It hints at what I miss a lot by not living Outside - getting a chance to meet up with some of them in person. That hurts.



About the only thing that pisses me off as a pubber is NMR's. Not so much for the players, that's part of the game. But I never know if it's the USPS, the player or my fault. That is aggravating.



Naturally, there is a completely different side of me that work or zeeners don't see. It's this side that Jenae wants me to reveal to my co-workers, and to my subbers.

## ORIGINS OF THE PRINCE

Admittedly, these comments are coming some ten years after the fact and as such may be colored by nostalgia. Nevertheless, a 100th reunion issue would not be complete without at least an attempt to explain how this zine was started.

I started playing Diplomacy postally in the Spring of 1981. A few weeks before Christmas 1980 I bought a Dip game and saw the flyer in the box to get Dip World. (I still have that game - wooden blocks with the board long torn into its six separate pieces) Soon after that I wrote away for samples and signed up for a game in Mike Conners' Lone Star Diplomat. I played in "Independence", with Mike Whitty and Don Scheifler. Russia eventually won after Don stabbed me. But Mike ran a great zine. The game reports were perfect with regards to

layout and appearance. Each game had a logo, was clear to read and looked sharp. When I started running games in The Prince, I patterned a lot of my reports after his; the separate presentation of interim seasons, and starting GM announcements with various punctuation marks (& - The game deadline is...) are directly taken from LSD. His chatter was always easy to read and fit in well with his publishing style, and again, I tried to pattern my level of chatter after him. Any credit for game reporting should go to Mike, not me.

A short while after starting in Mike's zine, I also started playing in Mark Larzelere's Appalling Greed. This zine ran three week dip games, and came out like clockwork. It was here I saw the great virtue in a timely zine running well-paced games. Mark put his out on a ditto machine and had the funniest linear separators ever. So when I started my zine, it was with three week deadlines, and though I had to drop to four after moving to Alaska, I would still rather run three week games. Again, any credit for keeping the zine on a steady course has to be shared with the fine example Mark set for me in promptness. (By the way, he and Kevin Tighe run neck and neck for funniest satire)

These two zines, then, were the great influences on me in 1981 and into 1982. A third zine during that time period had an effect on me, but not on the zine, and that was John Michalski's Brutus Bulletin. John showed that running a zine was supposed to be fun. John ran the best letter column ever, and also wrote (in my opinion) the most entertaining and funny chatter I ever read. And his chatter about his daily life, hobby friends and life in general would run several pages an issue. Alas, John was so good at it that I decided I wouldn't even attempt to duplicate his talents in my zine. Besides, I didn't have the time! But John did have fun doing it, he did what he liked and let subbers come or go in spite of it, and showed if you do what you like, you'll develop subbers who like you. That lesson, I hope, I have followed with The Prince.



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| John Best    | 1 | 0.000 | 1 |
| Phil Spera   | 1 | 0.000 | 1 |
| Scott Hanson | 1 | 0.000 | 1 |

Point awarded: 1 for a win, .5 for a two way, etc. .01 for survivals,  
.001 for outs.

Players who's only appearance was a drop are not included (for space considerations only).

Drake and Otto not included.

Twelve games have been completed in The Prince:

7 wins                      2 two way draws              2 three way draws              1 four way

The games, their completion dates and victors are as follows:

The Iron Dream 1982 AF  
Issue #23 April 23, 1984  
Win - Bob Gosselin RUS  
Fall 1912  
(this was an orphaned game)

Medici 1982 IC  
Issue #24 May 20, 1984  
Draw - Don Scheifler ENG  
- Kathy Caruso ITA  
- John MacFarlane GER  
Spring 1911

Tokugawa 1983 AD  
Issue #26 July 14, 1984  
Draw - Stephen Wilcox TUR  
- Derwood Bowen RUS  
Winter 1905

Machiavelli 1983 AM  
Issue #31 December 24, 1984  
Win - Evans Givan FRA  
Fall 1909

Charles 1983 I  
Issue #31 December 24, 1984  
Win - Dick Martin AUS  
Fall 1911 (a standby won)

Bismarck 1983 W  
Issue #31 December 24, 1984  
Win - Stephen Wilcox ENG  
Fall 1910

Maximilian 1983 AN  
Issue #40 November 4, 1985  
Win - Mike Henry TUR  
Fall 1912 (a standby won)

Churchill 1984 HU  
Issue #47 August 31, 1986  
Win - Glenn Sherrill RUS  
Winter 1907

Atreides 1982 IV  
Issue #48 October 5, 1986  
Draw - Mark Luedi FRA  
- Nelson Heintzman RUS  
Spring 1920

Rommel 1987 HG  
Issue #77 May 7, 1989  
Win - Paul Gardner TUR  
Fall 1910

Lincoln 1988 Z  
Issue #84 December 9, 1989  
Draw - Jim Nickel RUS  
- Rob Winslow ITA  
- Nelson Heintzman AUS  
Winter 1909

Fyrnhus 1988 HN  
Issue #90 June 9, 1990  
Draw - Kathy Caruso ENG  
- Pat Conlon FRA  
- Fred Chang ITA  
- Bruce Reiff TUR  
Spring 1907

## WHAT WE DO

The biggest label an American can place on another, and in turn be judged on himself, is a person's occupation. In France it is considered rude to ask what one does for a living. In Germany it's considered irrelevant. But here in the U.S., whole attitudes and preconceptions are decided and rooted in the answer to the simple question, 'what do you do?'

Which bring us, in my opinion, to one of the great things about the postal diplomacy hobby, that is, a chance to play and get to know others without that baggage to deal with. Lots of

people go further and say playing postally allows one to be judged solely on their ability to communicate with the written word. I agree a lot with that, and I have made more good friends in this manner than I have just going through life (which is probably more a reflection of my social skills that the high-mindedness of playing postally).

Having now stated how bad it is to want to know what you do, I then asked precisely that on my questionnaire. I plead guilty; I thought it would be interesting to see what people 'do for a living'.

### Helps their Diplomacy a lot

Congressional aide.

Manager for Rally's Hamburger.

Regional hotel management.

Surety underwriter.

Sales.

C.I.A.

Civil service, contract administrator.

Secretary.

Attorney.

"Work."

As little as possible.

Social studies teacher.

### No advantage choosing this pastime

Environmental Engineer

Student.

Environmental consulting.

National Park Ranger.

Post office.

Full time student, part time waiter.

### Geez, you must like this game a lot

Freelance fiction writer.

Coupon clipper (retired).

Accountant at Gibson Greetings.

Programmer.

Programmer, or as we say in

California, Software Engineer.

"Play with computers."

"I shuffle papers for the country's 10th largest bank."



\*\*\*\*\*  
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 CLOSET feudthefeudthefeudthedeudth  
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Gary C. - "...an anti-Linsey zine in spite of all reasonable facts..."

Fred D. - "...Then, we had a falling out. I believe you were supporting Kathy Byrne in The Great Feud, while I supported the side of Bruce Linsey. (It's a bit hard to remember the details after all this time). As I recall, you cut our Trade in Nov. 1984. This was at a time when the Hobby nearly split into two separate components, with one group trying to establish what they called "The Alternative Hobby."

Fortunately, this is all water over the dam. Both Sacks and Linsey have left the Hobby, as have certain others. Kathy has mellowed and John Caruso has virtually left the publishing side of the Hobby. We have had such peace and quiet for the past two years that even the Feud No. Custodian had given up. As such, my memories of THE PRINCE are of an excellent and well-printed zine, which was nearly always on time, except for the Fall of '84.

Terry I. - "(remember) you stopping by now and then and spending a pleasant evening "Great Evil" bashing.

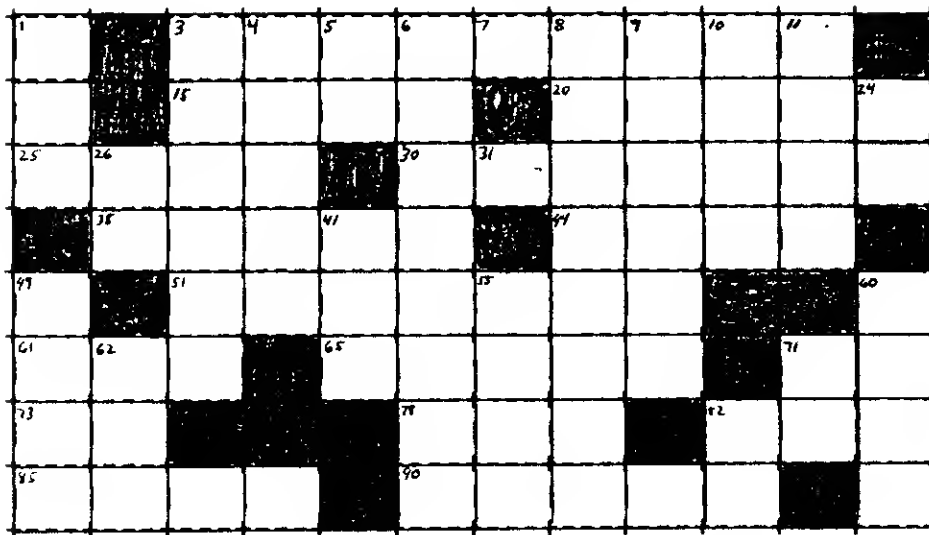
Larry Peery - I'm glad The Feud is over but I never dreamed that the post-feudal American hobby would be so damn dull!

Jim M. - A history of The Prince should at least mention The Great Fued. So that's all I do here, is mention it. All that is left of it here is two very fat files of correspondance (incoming and outgoing) documenting the ATO (Alaska Theatre of Operations). Needless to say, they will make a great donation to a lucky hobby archivist some day. This does provide me with an opportunity to let Fred know that I was cutting all my pubber trades in late 1984 as part of a cost cutting measure, but his other recollections are pretty much right on. The hobby survived, as most onlookers knew it would.

We have had three monster earthquake's in the last week, all in the 5's or 6's. Had Jenae running to the door! I guess I'm a fatalist - I just lay there and wonder if the house is really going to come down. You heard it here first.

# A DIP CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Dedicated to those who wrote in their school textbooks.



## ACROSS

3. Rare type of player ((I misspelled this one..sue me)).
15. What French troupe's say they have, but don't.
20. To hate doing.
25. Terminate with extreme prejudice.
30. Found wanting in Dip.
38. Noswegee moniker.
44. Relating to movies.
51. U Boater's nightmare.
55. Daisy fertilizer alternative.
61. Naughty name.
65. Mixed up femininity.
71. Number One.
73. Dorothy's call.
78. What Jim lives by.
82. French freebie.
85. What a puppet really is.
90. Temporary relief.

## DOWN

1. Bill & stab victim's noise.
3. Player with the most games in THE PRINCE.
4. Martin's Victim.
5. Fatherly endearment.
6. To add fact, quality or degree.
7. 14th letter.
8. Common Dip emotion.
9. Postal Dip's nemesis.
10. F--king (past tense).
11. To make feminine.
24. Name of one of my clients.
26. Malta's land (abbr.).
31. Eighch.
41. Proper Nordic script.
49. Home grown in Alaska.
55. Alaskan terror.
60. Pat C. and Kathy C.'s lunch.
62. Sci fi future seer.
66. Black Dog, or nerd's haven.
71. Why we do what we do.
82. Press.

This is my first attempt at making up a puzzle, so for you experts out there, please go easy on me.

Only weenie  
GM's use painted  
Blocks...



## Buz Eddy's reflections on the 80's:

Burrard W. Eddy CPA (aka Buz) -  
(Someday - (it is my fondest dream) -  
I have to have a real KK nickname -  
but then I hope none of the "Drake"  
people get to vote or it will only be  
printable in Graustark. I haven't  
seen a copy of Graustark for 20 years,  
but in the last one I saw - Boardman  
was promising to analyze the question  
whether freedom of speech included the  
right to scream "f--k!!" in a crowded  
theatre. Although he didn't use  
dashes.) The first thing one notices  
about me is that I am nasty & mean-  
spirited. But when you really get to  
know me I am thoroughly hateful. If  
you have a disagreement with the IRS I  
am the person you want most to have on  
your side. Otherwise I am the person  
you want most to be on the other side  
of the planet. Other than being a  
truly wretched human being I am  
generally considered to be an ass. My  
humor is lightweight and sophmoric.  
My secretary calls me "Mr. Wonderful"  
and my wife calls me "Jerk" in our  
more pleasant moments. My wife has  
known me longer. Will Rogers  
obviously never met me! If you want  
to know just how absolutely horridly  
you play this game - ally with me -  
I'll be more than happy to tell you,  
and point out all your many character  
flaws in the process. I haven't  
survived a postal game yet.

## WHO WE WERE...NOW

I promise this will be the only  
category subjected to a statistical  
analysis. I actually did not expect a  
lot of people to answer this question,  
but as it turned out, it had the  
highest percentage answered of any  
question! (probably because it was the  
easiest)

Subbers questioned: 64

Subber who returned questionnaire: 28

Subbers who answered this question: 24

Mean age: 36.4 (average)

Median: 38.5 (1/2 higher, 1/2 lower)

Mode: 41,43

(most frequent age, three each)

High: 60

Low: 18

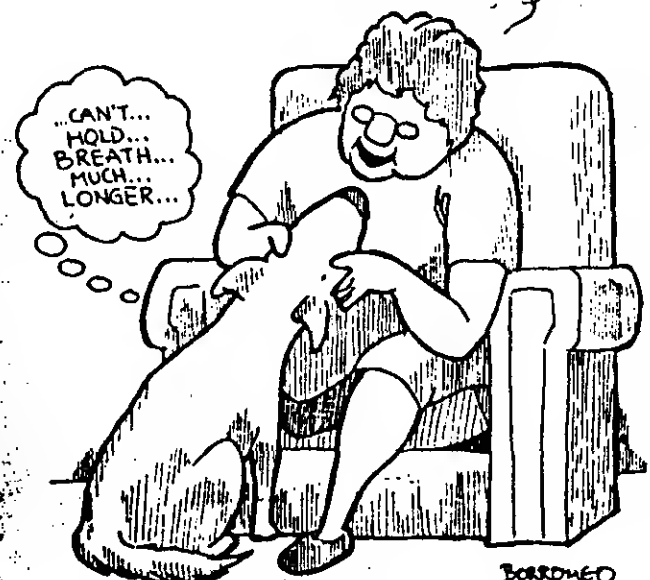
For what it's worth. I expected the  
ages to run a higher than what is  
probably prevelant in the postal hobby  
in general. In its heydey in 1983-  
1984 I had around fifty current  
subbers, and now I have only thirteen.  
The lack of new blood I'm sure is  
keeping the average up.

## BORROMEO

Little-known animal facts:

Dogs are repulsed by  
human breath.

...YOU'RE A GOOD  
DOGGY: YES YOU ARE!  
A VERY GOOD  
DOGGY....





Lists are always neat to read, at least for me. Here's a couple few lists to flesh out your Fearless Leader a bit.

### Play Lists

Do you remember 'play lists'? This may date me, or pubbers may still run them every once in awhile. For those who's brains periodically flush out trivial matters, play lists are when a pubber lists out the music he listened to while putting together that issue of the zine. Just a cute way to let you know a pubber's taste in music.

Jim's play list for the last six months putting together this reunion issue of The Prince:

Phil Collins, No Jacket Required  
Prince, Batman  
Tone-Loc, Loc'ed After Dark  
Inxs, Kick  
Peter Gabriel, So  
Bangles, Different Light  
Peter Gabriel, Shaking the Tree  
Radio stations:  
KBFX Classic Rock (The Fox)  
KLEF Classical music

### Read List:

Wartime, Paul Fussell, 1989. WWII wasn't as cleanly fought & won by the Allies as the movies or history books show.  
Contact, Carl Sagan  
The Cardinal of the Kremlin, Tom Clancy.  
Weirdos from Another Planet!, Bill Watterson (Calvin & Hobbes anthology)  
The Bare Facts, 1990, Video Guide. Find out who's showing what skin where.

The Handbook for No-Load Fund Investors, Sheldon Jacobs, 1990.  
How to Make War, James Dunnigan, 1988.  
War Brides of WWII, 1989, Shukert & Scibetta. Tales of foreign women who married American GI's in WWII.  
One Shot-One Kill, Sasser & Roberts, 1990. American snipers in the 20th century.  
The Great Railway Bazaar, Paul Theroux, 1975. Travel by train through Asia.

I've been reading a lot more in the last six months than I have before that. I miss reading; when I was growing up I read a lot, and even into college I still read a book or two a month. Work really kept me from reading; about the only time I read then was when I was on vacation, or on a plane. Now, I try to have at least one book on my nightstand. Right now it's Contact. The concept is good, but it's pretty dull at times. In my younger days I'd just skip over the boring stuff, but now I just go as far as I can, then set the book down and resume reading it later. I think I've set Sagan down about eight times so far...

I remember one time I was going to run in an issue a list of the magazines I subscribed to, but I've looked through my past issues and apparently I never did. Got cut out at the last minute by the editor, I guess, adjudged trivial at the time. Seeing as the real intent of this page is to let you see a little bit of what this pubber is like, I get these publications for fun and for profit (obviously in no order of importance):

The Journal of Accountancy  
The Wall Street Journal  
Rolling Stone  
Consumer Reports  
Monitoring Times  
Live!  
Gallery  
Anchorage Daily News  
The Practicing CPA  
Traveler

For what it's worth, Traveler is the finest magazine you could get if you travel or vacation at all. Suberly written, stylish and very practical. Highly recommended.

## CLOSING COMMENTS... 'TIL ISSUE #200???

Terry Tallman - I actually forget the hobby for weeks at a time. And then Boob Report or Moiré shows up or maybe the Orcs.

Dick Martin - Good luck with the next 100 Princes!

Evans Givan - Glad you're still at it.

Karl Hoffman - It's nice to get mail from Alaska. Everyone thinks I'm pen pals with an eskimo.

Keith Sherwood - After being extremely active in the hobby in early to mid 80's and inactive in late 80's, I now view the world through the warped eyes of Jim Burgess and occasionally when he publishes Dick Martin. I'm truly backwater now.

Mark Frueh - Always laugh how we met face to face - you were traveling with Jenae around the lower 48 states - you were invited to stay with us in St. Louis. When you called we were on our way out of town to Tennessee. Time was short, barely a "hi and bye" - you had the house and we were gone - (to a lousy camping trip) - Nancy and I came back wondering if we knew you well enough - the house was fine. I seem to remember sharing one evening together before you and Jenae had to go. ((JM: Don Scheifler was there that last night too, remember?))

Jack Fleming - Good luck with #100!

Rob Winslow - After a long hiatus from The Prince, I'm happy to be back. I'm sorry I missed you in Syracuse several years ago, I do hope to meet you in person someday! ((GM: That was a funny story. Rob knew Jenae and I were back east visiting. About 50 miles out of Rochester, I called Rob and got his recorder - left a message we were 50 miles out. I called again when we were closer. I called again when we were in Rochester and left yet another message [weeeee're heeeeeeere!]. And, finally, about twenty miles out of Rochester I called and left a final message [Too late!] Of course, Rob didn't think it was that funny. I never did find out where the hell he was!))

Derwood Bowen - Congrats on #100. That is a publishing accomplishment.

Al Incorvaia - This was a fun part of my life. I looked forward to the associations and acquaintances with everyone. I'm ready to get re-hooked. Thanks for tracking me down.

Guy Hail - I am frequently online and can be reached electronically at: GENie-G.Hail; American Online-G R Hail or Tenebrarum; via ProLine at grh@prosmof; via Internet at grh@prosmof.cts.com; via UUCP at crash!prosmof!grh; via ARPA at crash!prosmof!grh@nosc.mil [but these last four connections aren't real reliable].

Ken Peel - Congratulations!

Bruce Reiff - Congrats on #100, I hope you have 100 more!

Larry Peery - Your little project reminds me of the fact that I never did get around to publishing a 100th issue of XENOGOGIC, although when I counted up the number of issues I had published toward the end it was over 135.

I know this isn't much for your issue, but you have Gary Coughlin to thank for even this much. Without his call I wouldn't have been motivated to write, in spite of my good intentions.

Fred Davis - I have enjoyed all the friends and pen pals I've made in the Postal Hobby over the past 21 years. I consider the game of Diplomacy as merely the hook we hang our hats on. The friendships we make are the important part of the hobby. But, don't get so involved you don't have time for anything else. That's why I folded BUSH, to "take time to smell the roses." By the way, I still produce a bimonthly newsletter, called DIPLOMAG, for the Mensa Diplomacy SIG, so I'm not completely out of the hobby.

Kathy Caruso - Thanks to you Jim for giving us Dip players a place to play where the GM doesn't vanish or botch the games up. I for one appreciate the time and energy you put into the Prince! And if you ask me every novice should play their first game here, it would make it a very enjoyable experience and give them a good outlook on the hobby!

### AND A COUPLE OF WARM, FUZZY THOUGHTS

Glenn Sherrill - Where does the time go, Jim?

Paul Milewski - Everyone should have a hobby as good as this.